

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 PC-01 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /113 W
-----058919 280628Z /14

R 280545Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9568
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1622

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, KS
SUBJ: ROK RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BLOC

REF: A) TOKYO 3088 (NOTAL); B) SEOUL 894 (NOTAL)

1. DIRECTOR HWANG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY EAST EUROPEAN
DIVISION TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 27 THAT ROKG IS PLANNING TO
BROADEN ITS EFFORTS AT DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH SOVIET BLOC
DIPLOMATS THIS YEAR. IN THE PAST THIS ACTIVITY HAS BEEN
LIMITED TO SPECIFIC POSTS, MOSTLY IN ASIA, AND HAS BEEN AIMED
CHIEFLY AT EAST EUROPEAN PERSONNEL. ROKG HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED
BY RESULTS SO FAR AND IN THE FUTURE, ROK DIPLOMATS WORLDWIDE
WILL BE SEEKING TO DEVELOP INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH SOVIET
DIPLOMATS AS WELL AS EAST EUROPEANS. INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS
EFFECT ARE REPORTEDLY BEING GIVEN ROK CHIEFS OF MISSION AT THE
CURRENT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN PARIS.

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2. HWANG SAID THE ROK IS CONTINUING TO EXPAND TRADE WITH
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THIS IS SO FAR NEARLY ALL THROUGH
THIRD COUNTRIES AND DIFFICULT TO MEASURE, BUT ROKG
NOW CALCULATE THAT IT TOTALLED \$200 MILLION IN 1976, MOSTLY
ROK EXPORTS. DIRECT TRADE SO FAR LARGELY LIMITED TO
TOBACCO LEAF EXPORTED TO YUGOSLAVIA BUT SOME ADDITIONAL
DEALS UNDER EXPLORATION. HWANG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT

KOREAN PROCESSING OF SOVIET-CAUGHT POLLACK IS NOW UNDER
WAY THROUGH A US FIRM ENGAGED IN A JOINT VENTURE
WITH THE USSR, (REF B) AND SAID THE ROKG NATURALLY HOPES
THAT THIS SORT OF TRANSACTION WILL PROVIDE SOME BASIS
FOR DIRECT CONTACT. ROKG IS AWARE, HOWEVER, OF THE
SENSITIVITY OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO EXCESSIVE PUBLICITY.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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